

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

Technology opens up perspectives which have not always been perceived. It extends co-operation between doctors to the employment of the civilian and military technical methods of the Detaining Power. Legal definition should be made of doctor's rights in this technical sphere.

Finally, ethics should encourage a supra-national professional code, guaranteeing the harmonization of aid to all who are suffering.

This ethical approach is essentially that of doctors' consciences as regards the moral and professional problems arising in conflicts. It is not mistaken to believe that training and education can form new consciences. Law, in its prospective and positive action can, here again, precipitate such a development.

That the consciences of doctors alone are involved is not sufficient. There should also be the active determination of governments and leading moral and intellectual circles. Thus, populations as far as war leaders themselves would be the better aware of the dignity and the rights of the medical body.

Standing apart from all forms of belligerency, concerned exclusively with the good of mankind, doctors of all nationalities will then only have the moral authority enabling them to act in common, in accordance with the very essence of their profession which is to save lives in danger and alleviate pain.

Leisure Time for the Aged, *Travail social, Paris, No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 1966.*

. . . Whether we are able to put our leisure time to good advantage when we are old will depend on how, throughout our lives, we have been able to find a way of life suited to our personality. Initiation to this way of life begins with the understanding of everything which forms the apparently freest part of every-day activities, namely leisure. This knowledge permits the determination of conduct in each one of the circumstances of existence. Behaviour is thereafter no longer the mechanical result of a conditioning process. It utilizes environmental resources in a manner appropriate to the needs and aspirations of the personality. This choice leads one to find a proper balance between relaxation, recreation and developing activities in the flux of situations occurring in daily life.

With the increased leisure time available to people, it might be thought that each one of us could decide the pattern of our lives and would therefore, from adulthood onwards, make the best use of leisure time. The problem raised today will therefore evolve. The individual accustomed to making the best of considerable leisure time will, when

he reaches retiring age, know how to use that period of his life when no demands are made of him. It will then therefore no doubt be less necessary to insist on the exercise of a professional activity.

Moreover, people in later life who have learned not only to put up with but to come to terms with old age will be able to find unity and happiness: this period of their life will become the inevitable but not the dreaded stage of every human being's lot.

The Position of the Medically Trained Person in the Administration of Health Services (Summary), by Dr. K. Evang, *Boletín de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana*, Washington, 1967, No. 3.

Any health problem of consequence facing a central health administration today will generally present several aspects:

1. The health (medical) aspect.
2. The legal, including constitutional, aspect.
3. The financial aspect.
4. The functional aspect, meaning integration into the machinery of the health services at large.
5. The sociological aspect, relation to other related functions of society.

All these aspects are intimately interwoven and only represent various sides of the same problem. In any other field it would be accepted that the only way to handle a problem of this conglomerate character is to establish an adequately composed team, the members of which among themselves cover the various types of insight and experience. This approach is now called for also as far as the central health administration is concerned. Old traditions, prejudices, and vested interests will have to be overcome to also achieve this on the part of the medically trained administrator.

On such a team the lawyer will be a full member in his own right, as a specialist in legal questions, as will various types of specialists in administration. Since the goal-setting has to do with health, however, all participants will find it only natural that the medical specialist in health administration should be the head of the team. One should also recognize from the very first moment that a team entrusted with administrative and executive tasks cannot in all respects act in the same way as a scientific team. In administration for obvious reasons a ladder of responsibility must be established.

It should also be clearly admitted that the difficulties which we are facing today to a great degree are caused by the unwillingness of the